

In the Claims

✓  
Please cancel claims 44-59 without prejudice to continued prosecution in this or a continuing application.

✓  
Please add the following new claims:

Sub C1  
60. (New) A system for transmitting laser energy to a surgical site comprising:  
a laser energy source operating at a wavelength in a range of about 1.4 - 2.2 micrometers; and  
an optical fiber for conducting laser energy from a proximal end of said fiber to a surgical site at a distal end of said fiber, the proximal end being coupled to the output of said laser energy source, and said fiber being a silica fiber having a low hydroxyl ion content to reduce absorption of said laser energy during transmission through said fiber.

B1  
2. 61. (New) The system of claim <sup>1,</sup>~~60~~ wherein said laser source comprises a Holmium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

3. 62. (New) The system of claim <sup>1,</sup>~~60~~ wherein said laser source comprises an Erbium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

4. 63. (New) The system of claim <sup>1,</sup>~~60~~ wherein said laser source comprises a Holmium-doped Yttrium-Lithium-Fluoride laser.

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5.  
~~64.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>11</sup> wherein said laser source comprises a Erbium-doped Yttrium-Lithium-Fluoride laser.

9.  
~~65.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>11</sup> wherein said laser source comprises a Thulium-doped Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet laser.

10.  
~~66.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>11</sup> wherein the laser source operates in a pulsed mode at an energy level sufficient to remove biological tissue by vaporization.

11.  
~~67.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said laser source operates with a pulse width of 0.2 - 5 milliseconds.

12.  
~~68.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said laser source operates at a repetition rate of about 1 to about 10 pulses per second.

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13.  
~~69.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said laser source operates to deliver energy to a surgical site of at least 0.57 millijoules per pulse.

6.  
~~70.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>11</sup> wherein the laser source operates in a continuous wave mode at an energy level sufficient to repair biological tissue.

7.  
~~71.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~60~~<sup>11</sup> wherein said laser source operates to deliver energy at a wavelength in a range of about 2.06 - 2.1 - micrometers.